

Saturday Gazette.

Bloomfield and Montclair, N. J.

WM. F. LYON, Editor and Proprietor.
CHAS. M. DAVIS, Associate Editor.OUR PRINCIPAL OFFICE is next door
to the Post Office in Bloomfield.

The Saturday Gazette.

BLOOMFIELD AND MONTCLAIR.

An independent weekly journal of LIT-
ERATURE, EDUCATION, POLITICS, GENERAL
NEWS AND LOCAL INTERESTS.All public and local questions, including
political and social, sanitary and reforma-
tory, educational and industrial topics will
be clearly presented and fully and fairly dis-
cussed.It is intended and expected to make it
not only readable and interesting to the
general reader, but of special value to citi-
zens of the county and of real importance to
every resident of Bloomfield, Montclair
and Caldwell.Nothing will be admitted to its columns
that is unworthy of cordial welcome to
every family circle.Settled Clergymen in the county and all
Public School Teachers in the county will
receive the paper gratuitously by sending their
address.It should prove a valuable medium for
advertisers. Our weekly circulation is 1250
copies, extending to every part of Essex
county. Subscriptions and advertisements
will be received in Montclair, by E. Mad-
ison; in Caldwell, by M. Harrison; in Ve-
rona, by W. L. Scott; in Newark, by W. H.
Winans, 445 Broad street, and at our office
in Bloomfield, or by mail to Wm. F. Lyon,
Editor and Proprietor, Bloomfield, N. J.

TO SUBSCRIBERS

Subscribers who have not paid their
subscriptions for the present year will con-
fer a favor by enclosing the same to Wm.
F. Lyon, Bloomfield. The \$3.00 subscrip-
tions received for the second volume ex-
pired on the 14th of Feb. Their renewal
requires \$1.75 to be paid, which will run to
the end of the present volume in De-
cember next.Any subscriber is entitled to have an ex-
tra copy sent to any address, by the pay-
ment of \$1.00. We hope many will avail
themselves of this offer. Our Caldwell
readers will be gratified with the increased
interest for their village which our col-
umns indicate. We hope to receive a
large accession to our subscription list
there and also in VERONA. The Post-
masters have consented to take the names
and money and forward them to us. We
hope our friends everywhere will rally to
our support and encouragement by prompt
responses.

PRESIDENT GRANT.

APPOINTMENT TO OFFICE—SIMMONS.

Of all public functionaries in our coun-
try we should think the President needs
more than any other, to be a man of iron
nerves. He must be truly independent in
judgment and will. He must be cool and
firm. He should be a man of quick dis-
cernment, of high minded instincts, of
just conclusions. He must be emi-
nently intelligent, not necessarily learned,
but possessed of a varied comprehen-
sive, practical knowledge of men
and things. He must be a devoted
patriot, desiring and seeking the good of
his country, the whole Union, and all its
separate parts. From his elevated posi-
tion he can survey the wide field, and from
his familiarity with all sections, and his
reports from each class, and every interest,
he can, better than any other mind, com-
prehend the true situation and the relative
wants of every member.A timid man, or a nervous man, or a man
without a good substantial backbone is not
the man for the office. The President,
once in office, is a marked man. If he
lack the essential requisites of manly inde-
pendence, of heroic fortitude of self-sus-
taining courage and conscious integrity,
he is a doomed man from the moment of
his election. It is only a question of time,
when he will fall; but the myriads of shafts
that are levelled at him from every direc-
tion will certainly "fitch him" sooner or
later.Every man has some vulnerable points;
a President need not try to cover them; a
truly noble nature will disdain to simulate a
character which he possesses not. A Presi-
dent of well grounded independence, of
well established endurance, of proven cour-
age, of undoubted integrity, cannot be as-
sailed at a vital point. Envy, malice,
ambition, disappointment, covetousness,
may do their worst, he comes out from the
smoke of the contest, with his patriotic
colors flying, his honest upright judgment
unimpaired, his line of "battle" advanced
and his position improved.President Grant has been subject to this
fery ordeal in its most insatiate manifes-
tations. Vindication, calumny, spleen
and all forms of opprobrium have exhaust-
ed their malevolence and yet his head is
unseathed, his equanimity is unshaken.
His administration gains strength by the
constant secretion of trusting hearts, and
his power for good is augmented by the
generous confidence of intelligent mind-
and the ardent sympathies of admiring
thousands in every part of the land. We
thus decidedly state our honest convictions
the result of extended and careful obser-
vation, believing that his constituency—the
people of this free country—will vindicate
his title to incorruptible integrity and sin-
cere devotion to the public good.

APPOINTMENT TO OFFICE.

The official patronage of the administra-
tion is the cause of most of the attacks up-
on the President. This patronage, in a nu-tion of such broad extent and of 40,000,
000 people is necessarily immense. The
President is responsible for a large number
of very important appointments, the suit-
ableness and efficiency of which may invig-
orate or cripple his administration, may
promote the well or embarrass the inter-
ests of the country. These appointments
are occurring and recurring constantly in
every State of the Union. The trouble is
that there are many aspirants for political
preferment. Every Senator expects to be
consulted especially as to the appoint-
ments in his own State and every Con-
gressman respecting those in his district.
Then the political organizations everywhere
the clubs, the committees, claim to be ad-
visers. In Customs appointments the mer-
chants wish to designate the nominee, in
financial appointments the Bankers de-
mand the right. And then there are a
great variety of other descriptions con-
nected with the Judiciary with the Post
Office, with the Interior Department, with
the State Department, the War and the Na-
vy Departments, and others not included
in any of these. The total appointments
in the course of a year, and still more dur-
ing one administration of four years, is al-
most innumerable. For each vacant office
there are many, sometimes hundreds, of
applicants, each one supported by his in-
fluential friends, who also decry the other
contestants with assumed patriotic fer-
vor.It is easy to see where the dilemma of the
President begins, and where his great and
essential attributes develop themselves.
Here a weak or short sighted or irresolute
man would be overthrown. The appoint-
ment of one of the applicants extinguishes
the hopes of the rest and adds, perhaps, a
considerable number to the army of "sore
heads" whose carnal warfare is thence-
forth to berate and vilify the President.

THE APPOINTMENT OF SIMMONS.

The latest instance of this is the appoint-
ment of Mr. Wm. A. Simmons to the col-
lectorship of the Port of Boston. Mr. Sim-
mons has the misfortune to be a young man
of only 35 years, and not to belong to the
educated and the patrician class of the
Hub. Surmises are ventured of his lack
of qualifications for the office, but no reli-
able facts are adduced to prove it.The fact seems to be that certain would
be enemies and self appointed regulators
of public affairs in Boston had greatly set
their hearts on having the selection made
from a small ring of ex-officio holders, three
in number, some however were for one and
some for another; and it has not yet been
shown that they would have united on
either without a promise of some desirable
offices for the others also. The President
with his quick discernment and ready in-
sights gave a very practical solution to the
quandry, ignoring these "standing claims"
for office, passing by the old fossils and
taking up a new, fresh and vigorous young
man who he had reason to believe would
vindicate his capacity and fidelity with
commendable energy and a single eye to the
public interest. The Senate approved and
confirmed the nomination by a vote of
80 to 16.And now, forsooth, the Hub is all in a
whirl of excitement and indignation that
the Government should fail to recognize
the superior virtue and wisdom, patriotism
and statesmanship, honesty and learning
of those who wanted to "make up the
state" there, and designate the only men fit
to collect the customs duties from the
Bostonians.Happily President Grant if he can't read
Sanskrit, he can read character, if he is not
distinguished for mathematical calcula-
tions, he has shown that he knows what
qualifications the computation of duties
demands, and that he is the best able to
comprehend the true situation and the relative
wants of every member.NEGRO SUPREMACY IN SOUTH
CAROLINA.We have always been opposed to negro
ascendancy in government, and the more
developments we have, from the domina-
tion of that race in some sections of our
country, the more are we confirmed in our
opinions. The course they have taken and
the exhibitions they make of themselves in
South Carolina would be ludicrous enough
if it were not so revolting to our conserva-
tive sense of the fitness of things. As it is,
it is disgusting as well as painful. They
have shown that they are no more fit to
rule the destinies of a great State than chil-
dren or lunatics are. It is obvious that
they, with few exceptions, lack the essen-
tial attributes of government. Their nature
in general is impulsive, self indulgent, un-
steady and inconsistent. What changes
time and education may work in their traits
of character we will not assume to predict,
we may hope for the best. But to exalt
them, in their ignorance, inexperience and
stupidity to take the reins of government
and to make laws for the State seems in the
highest degree absurd.There is no wonder that the intelligent
and stable men of South Carolina, Missis-
sippi and Louisiana are heart sick at the
prospects before them. It would scarcely
be a marvel if they should rise up in their
wrath and rid themselves of this disgrace
and ruin at whatever cost or danger. Is
there no power in the general Government
to rectify the evils that exist in such cases?
The State is powerless to help itself and
is going to ruin.Cannot the paternal government exercise
a merciful care and control in such an
emergency? We are not sorry that slavery
is abolished, nor that the colored men, be-
ing citizens, are allowed to vote. But cer-
tainly there should be some qualifications
for office holding and for eligibility aslegislators. In the reconstruction of the
late rebel States, this should have been
provided for. And in its omission and the
consequent misrule, confusion, and almost
anarchy which has followed, we think it
should be competent for the President, or
at all events for Congress to assume such
control and direction as would rescue the
State from its sad predicament. It is right
that the President and Congress should de-
liberate well and move cautiously in this
important matter. They may well hesitate
before taking a step that is not clearly
warranted by the letter and the authorized
rendering of the Constitution.But this case is anomalous; it was never
contemplated by the framers of our consti-
tution, and it has no precedent, as far as
we are advised, which would determine
the only fitting course. Suppose the peo-
ple of a State should elect to their legisla-
ture a majority of inexperienced youths, or
young men, if you please, just out of their
legal minority; or suppose they should,
through some strange infatuation elect a
majority of idiots, must the good people of
that State be compelled to submit to such
domination and to acquiesce in whatever
grievous and obnoxious laws such a
government might impose?The National Government is bound to
exercise sovereign powers and to "guar-
antee to every State of this Union a Republi-
can form of government." That is, a true
Republican government, a government
founded on just principles and with just
aims.If the National Government cannot con-
strain its jurisdiction to justify and author-
ize its interference to rescue a State from
such an anomalous condition of things,
such preposterous absurdities as exist in
South Carolina, paralyzing industry, de-
pressing energy, brightening prosperity and
destroying hope, then the quicker we set
to work to get another amendment to the
Constitution which shall give the needed
powers, the better will it be for all. "If
one member suffers, all the members suffer
with it."

BLOOMFIELDERS IN COUNCIL.

On Tuesday evening, pursuant to notice,
the men of Bloomfield gathered at the Cen-
tre in the lecture room of the Presby-
terian Church, the only room which will seat
350 people that Bloomfield has to offer for
a public meeting. We have of course,churches with commodious audience rooms
but they are not available for political or
town meetings. The attendance on this
occasion, we should say numbered one
quarter of all the voters and a fair repre-
sentation from every section of the town.
They came from Brookdale, from Silver
Springs, from Morris Hill, from Berkeley,
from West End and from Ridgewood—a
goodly company of orderly, interested,
thoughtful citizens, expectant and anxious
to hear from the public officers of the town
an account of their stewardship.Hon. J. F. Sanxay, whose genial and fa-
cious humor and clear-head, no less than
his familiarity with parliamentary
practice, qualify him especially for a pre-
siding officer, was called to the chair by
the unanimous voice of the assembly. The
Town Clerk was, according to usage, ap-
pointed secretary.

THE REPORTS.

The Chairman called upon the Town
Clerk, Mr. J. F. Folsom, to read the reports,
which he did from a printed pamphlet that
had already been distributed among the
audience. It amounted to nothing more
than a synopsis of the different financial
accounts kept, as is supposed by the Town
Clerk. For the most part they were scarce-
ly more intelligible to the audience than an
essay on philology or on squaring the circle
would have been. The Clerk seemed
tolerably familiar with them and his ex-
planations, as he went along, threw some
light upon the wilderness of figures.

ILLUSTRATION.

But let us justify our remark upon the
unintelligible obscurity of these transcripts
of accounts. In the Collector's account,
the first credit is, "By sundry payments,
as per account, \$53,995 65." No detail
or explanation of the items which make
up this large sum.In the Poor account, we find the first
debit item reads, "Paid John Moreland
\$219." 29 other items follow in the same
way—without explanation of what the pay-
ment is for.The Contingent account has on the debit
side 30 charges of money paid, but in no
case, is the cause or reason of the pay-
ment given. In a very few cases it is vari-
ously surmised, as for instance this—"Paid
J. Archdeacon, \$75," and this, "Paid Jno.
C. Pitt, \$78 64," and this, "Paid Town
Committee, \$700."In the Road account we find only two
items charged to wit, "Expended on
roads, \$7,597 43." "Paid for Mapping,
\$3,458 50."No explanation of how and where the
former of these large sums was expended,
or of the law authorizing it.Seventeen other separate accounts fol-
low, nearly all of which are but little
more intelligible or satisfactory.Then finally comes the Tax Duplicate
Account, involving an amount of \$64,863-
74. One item of which is, "Paid Sundry
Accounts, \$62,062 01" without any refer-
ence or explanation which would enable
tax payers to exercise any judgement upon
it.Citizen J. F. Pandolph, remarked upon
the very unsatisfactory nature of the re-
ports or statements of the condition of the
several accounts, and tried to get explana-
tions. Mr. Jas. C. Beach, Chairman of
the Town Committee, with evident desire
to present the matter truly and clearly
before the citizens, attempted explanations
but really he shed no light upon the figures
and gave no explanation of the causes and
reasons of the many different expenditures.The meeting was not informed even that a
careful entry had been made of each sum
paid, with the name of the person to whom,
and the reason and authority for the same;
and whether in all cases there was a pro-
per voucher filed; and finally whether
these accounts had now been duly exam-
ined by competent auditors and justified.
The Report practically amounted to lit-
tle or nothing as furnishing a criterion ofthe fidelity and good judgment of the
officers in whom these important trusts have
been reposed.These remarks apply to those accounts
reported on. But we should like to know
why the citizens, tax payers, constituents
of these officers are not entitled to receive
a written or printed report of the opera-
tions of each separate office during the
year.The Assessor could have made a very in-
teresting and useful report. The Collec-
tor could have given a report that would
not only have been interesting to Citizens
but would have aided him in his work.
The Town Committee could and should
have presented a report that would have
greatly interested their constituents—with
explanations about the Gas distribution,
the number and position of the street
lamps, the programme for their lighting,
the reason for not supplying Bloomfield
Avenue from the Centre to the Orange
road, and Liberty street from the Park to
the Canal Bridge, and the reason for the
peculiar distribution of road work during
the year.The Surveyors of Highways if they
have exercised their official functions dur-
ing the year might well report.The Overseer of the Poor certainly
should furnish a written report.The Chosen Freeholders also should in-
form the town of the various questions and
decisions and works which had engaged
their attention.Of course all these reports may be brief
but how important it is, that these things
should be a matter of record, and that
those who appoint these officers should be
permitted to know how they have per-
formed their duties. Then the people could
go into the election just at hand, much bet-
ter qualified to vote for the right men.

HOME MATTERS.

BLOOMFIELD.

WEATHER CHRONICLE.

Range of Thermometer at Bloomfield Centre.
Feb. 27 28 March 1 2 3 4 5
28° 34° 20° 28° 30° 33° 30°
Average.
30° 31° 34° 38° 42° 50° 39°APPROPRIATIONS.—At the Tuesday even-
ing meeting the following appropriations
were recommended to the voters at the
election to be held on Monday next.Repairs of Roads. \$2 50
Relief of the Poor, 2,000
Contingent Expenses, 4,000
Cross Walks, 500
Public Grounds, 500IMPORTANT EXPLANATION.—The seeming
recommendation of \$2.50 for road purposes
was either a burlesque or it indicated a
dissatisfaction with the way nearly \$8,000
was spent on the roads last year and no de-
tailed account rendered of it. The remedy
is in the hands of the people. If we put
in "good men and true," they will carry
out the wishes of the people and we need
not fear trusting them with a sufficient
sum to make a good beginning on our ex-
crable roads. There ought certainly to be
a fund of \$10,000 raised for road purposes.
Let those who think so vote for that sum.
If others think \$5,000 enough let them
vote for that. The sum that has the largest
vote will, of course, carry it.But don't let us make ourselves a laugh-
ing stock by doing nothing for the roads
the coming year.NOMINATIONS.—The evident dissatis-
faction with the Town Committee of the past
year induces the belief that the people in-
tend to make a pretty general change.The results of open nominations sud-
denly brought forward at a public meeting
are hardly to be expected to prove satis-
factory. A suggestion before hand it is
hoped will not be taken amiss.We could name a dozen men from among
whom seven town committeemen can be
selected who will do credit to the town
and themselves, and wisely control its
affairs and expenses for the greatest good
to the largest number and the highest in-
terests.Those we would submit are E. W. Page,
Samuel Benson, John Sherman, Jacob P.
Randolph, John C. Keyler, Robert Peck,
Isaiah Peckham, Horace Dodd, Edward
Wilde, Dr. J. A. Davis, J. F. Sanxay,
Aug. T. Morris and Cor. A. Van Houten.Others could be named, but we should
have confidence in any seven of the above
they should receive the largest vote, and
we have reason to believe that such a
ticket would prove eminently satisfactory
to the whole town.CONCERT.—On Wednesday evening next
there is to be a grand concert in the Meth-
odist Church and for its benefit. The ob-
ject is worthy, and it is expected that the
entertainment will be an unusually rich
one.TOWN ELECTION.—The Annual Election
for Town officers: Assessor, three Com-
missioners of Appeals, Collector, seven Town
Committeemen, Town Clerk, two Sur-
veyors of Highways, Judge of Elections, 2
Chosen Freeholders, will be held on Mon-
day next.A meeting of the officers and managers
of the Ladies' Relief Committee of Bloom-
field will be held at the residence of Mrs.
D. B. Coe on Tuesday, the 10th inst., at 3
o'clock P.M. Mrs. R. N. Donn, Sec'y.

MONTCLAIR.

On Wednesday evening, a large and
miscellaneous meeting of citizens assem-
bled to consider some desired amendments
to the Road Bill. Much desultory discus-
sion took place and some propositions
were made, but we believe nothing was
agreed upon, except a resolution to advo-
cate the repeal of the entire law as it now
stands. If the Legislature concur in this,
it will put us just where we were one year
ago and abolish the Road Commissioners.W. Jacobus, reports the sale of Burth-
not's lot on Bloomfield Avenue, \$2,700.
Also of H. W. Nason's House and 5 acres
on Mountain Avenue, for \$20,000.Mr. J. H. Richards was made the recipi-
ent of a very pleasant surprise on Wednes-day evening. The company numbering
about 60 were officers, teachers and scholars
of the Sunday school of which he is Supt.
The occasion being his birthday.Mr. Daniels has purchased of E. O. Du-
rums on Fullerton Ave., a lot 120 feet
front, for \$6,250. We understand he pro-
poses to improve it by building two dwell-
ings upon it.Mr. Livermore has purchased of Samuel
Wilde, lot cor. Fullerton Ave. and Union
street, consideration \$5,000.UPPER MONTCLAIR MAIL.—Arrive at 10-
52 A. M. Close at 3.00 P. M.Dr. W. Morris Butler has accepted a po-
sition as resident Physician of the Home-
opathic Insane Asylum at Middletown, N. Y.,
and leaves for his new post about April 1.Mr. C. F. Ely has opened a Dentist's
office in Hayden's building.There is a bill before the Legislature to
exchange the corporate name of West
Bloomfield school district to Montclair;
to provide for the election of Trustees in
such a manner as that only a portion of the
board will go out at one time, and to have
a Treasurer appointed.LOCAL OFFICE.—We are happy to an-
nounce that the efforts to induce the Legis-
lature to repeal our Local Option law cul-
minated on Tuesday in a vote of 27 to 29
which of course defeated the repeal.The Repeal of Montclair's local option
was opposed by Mr. Halsey. Mr. Fitzgerald
made a strong speech, in its favor, de-
nouncing a certain Justice of Montclair,
who had kept a detective to spot out of
funders, and bring them before him, that
he might inflict them in fines or commit to
prison. A call of the House was made
and absent members gathered in. The bill
was then voted upon and lost, 27 to 29. It
first stood 29 to 27, but Van Ness and D.
Henry changed from yes to nay. The fol-
lowing voted for repeal: Anderson, Bald-
win Bogert, J. Carpenter, Cole, Fitzgerald,
Gifford, Gill, T. S. Henry, Herring, Jones,
Lindsay, Martin, McDermott, McGill, Mor-
row, Muehler, Patterson, Rabe, Sellick,
Sheeran, Skellenger, Smith, Sutphen, Van
derbilt, Ward, Zoloff; 27. Messrs. Budd,
Carle, Lonan and Sprout absent.TOWN ELECTION.—This will take place
on Monday, April 6th. It will be well for
citizens to consider the doings of their
public servants for the year past. Any
who have evinced devotion and fidelity
to the public interest and wise judgment
in the measures advocated, should hear
through the ballot the approving voice of
the people saying, "well done good and
faithful servant." For experience of ser-
vice is of value to the town, and change,
for change sake, would be a loss.

OUR ROAD MEETING.

The meeting on Wednesday evening,
February 26th, though it produced no defi-
nite result, may still be considered a suc-
cess. The meeting was large in numbers
and represented the strength of the road
districts interested. All were unanimously
of the opinion that the time had arrived
when the question of hard roads must be
met and the only point at issue being how
shall it be solved.Mr. Taylor was appointed chairman, and
conferred the meeting and discussion to the
question before it. Mr. Mills introduced a
resolution in favor of a gravel road, which
was voted down after much discussion.
On motion of Mr. Hopkins a committee of
five were appointed, consisting of Mr. Van
Vleck, Nathan Porter, the Chairman,
Alfred Taylor, Wm. Jacobus and Dr.
Pinkham, who should by investigation
and inquiry determine what in their judg-
ment was the best and most expedient
kind of hard road for Montclair to adopt.
The Committee were ordered to report at
a meeting of citizens to be called by the
Committee when they were ready to report.
So far so good.Whether gravel or telford roads are
what we want I am not prepared to say;
but I feel safe in asserting that the time
has come when Montclair must have some-
thing beside the present mud roads. Our
personal comfort, our real estate interests,
and the general interests of our village de-
mand a change for the better. The time
has now come when every dollar expended
on our present roads is money thrown
away. All will look anxiously for the re-
port of this committee, whom I feel sure
will give the time and attention to their
work that the importance of the subject
demands. It is a task that requires
thought and time, and we can congratu-
late ourselves upon the selection of a com-
mittee in whom we have perfect confi-
dence. Still there should be no unneces-
sary delay in this matter for its importance
requires that something should be done at
once. It is to be regretted that the law is
so framed that one or two property owners
can prevent the laying of a hard road
when the public good demands that the
work should be accomplished. But the
forethought of property owners and their
own interests will we feel sure prevent
any serious obstacles being placed in the
way of our having hard roads.The community are under obligations to
Mr. Mills and the few who have interested
themselves in this subject and taken so
much pains to procure the consent of prop-
erty lake the interest in this subject his
duty calls upon him to see to it that he
does his whole duty in the matter.We would give our most cordial endorse-
ment to Dr. Pinkham's suggestions in re-
gard to drainage. Dr. Pinkham remarked
at the road meeting that the time has
come when the sanitary condition of Mont-
clair demands that a system of drainage
be adopted in connection with the im-
provements of our roads. That Montclair
was admirably adapted for drainage atcomparatively small cost. I am glad
to announce that Dr. Pinkham has pre-
pared a paper upon this important sub-
ject which he proposes to read before the
Citizens' Association. The importance of
this subject cannot be overrated and should
be practically met at once.

NORMAN.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

BLOOMFIELD AVENUE.—An important
bill has been introduced into the Assembly
providing for vacating the assessments for
benefits for opening and working this
avenue, which had been levied on the
property in Bloomfield and Montclair
within five hundred feet of the road. It
is proposed that it shall be paid by these
towns in ten annual installments.Serious complaints are also made against
the Road Board for accepting the road
from the contractors in an incomplete, un-
satisfactory and defective condition, it be-
ing found considerably less than the requir-
ed thickness and of poorer quality.Our next two issues (of 14th and 21st.)
will be again largely occupied with de-
scriptions of the attractive features of our
localities and of individual villas, &c.,
prepared by various pens.Now we again solicit contributions in fur-
therance of this purpose and trust they
will be furnished promptly. Now is the
time for City people to be looking out for
homes, boarding places, &c.The GAZETTE will be best medium for
advertising any interest of our towns.
Communications or advertisements
should be sent to "SATURDAY GAZETTE,"
Bloomfield.

FOR THE SATURDAY GAZETTE.

MUD.

This is a subject with which we are all
at this season of the year pretty familiar.
To where we will in city or country this
subject obtrudes itself upon our considera-
tion. It meets us on our various paths
through life, and although we may strive
to think upon more important matters,
mud will assert its claims to recognition as
we jog along through the busy world. It
is in fact a subject that appeals directly to
our understanding, and however much we
may trample it under foot it will still
stick to us. How to keep out of the mud,
is a problem as difficult of solution as any
to be found in the works of Euclid or the
Science of Ethnology, and the solving here-
to that will solve it will be entitled to the
thanks of both man and womankind and
deserve a niche in the temple of fame that
shall immortalize his name with the gra-
titude of coming generations. There is one
consolation, however, that we in the coun-
try have over our city friends. Country
mud is of much better quality than the
black adulterated dejection supplied to the
Gothamites. Country mud is a pure,
wholesome, genuine article. The only ob-
jection that can be raised against it is that
there is too much of it—a less amount
would answer—the supply exceeds the de-
mand—the market is overstocked. And it
would perhaps be prudent for the manu-
facturers of this staple commodity (as man-
ufactured by the several town authorities
in this section of country) to shut up shop,
or select some other specialty for the exer-
cise of their talents and ingenuity that
will command a better market, and give
more general satisfaction to the community
at large.Seriously, Mr. Editor, this mud question
is one of vital importance to the interests
of growing towns. The deplorable condi-
tion of our country roads is a matter that
needs immediate attention, not particularly
in Bloomfield more than other towns, but
in all the section of country in the vicinity
of New York city. Our local roads have
probably done much to prevent strangers
coming among us as any other cause that
exists. The old inhabitants tell us the
roads are worse than they were many years
ago. While everything else pertaining to
the improvement of country towns has
been advancing with rapid strides of late
years our highways have unquestionably
been retrograding, notwithstanding the
fact that large sums have been appropri-
ated for their benefit. It is unjust to those
who are called upon to contribute so large
a share of their means in the shape of tax-
ation for road purposes to give in return
such lamentable apologies for roads as ex-
ist throughout this portion of our State.
It is no wonder that people grumble at the
conduct of affairs in this respect. In those
days of progress when everything that
conduces to our comfort is so easily obtain-
able, it might be supposed that better
roads could be had if the proper policy
was adopted to regulate such matters. It
has been the custom to elect or appoint al-
most any person that wanted the office of
road-master or overseer, or whatever such
post may be called, to fill this important
office. This has been the rock upon which
we have foundered. The art of construct-
ing good roads is one of the most difficult
things that men have encountered. Among
the many different kinds of costly pave-
ments none have yet arrived at perfection.
How unreasonable, then, to suppose that
any Tom, Dick or Harry that may offer is
a suitable person to be entrusted with
superintendence of such affairs. It has been
found in other places than this that the
services of an expert is required, one who
has learned the business thoroughly and is
competent to direct this kind of work.
Such an one should be secured in Bloom-
field, one who would expend the people's
money judiciously, and know when to
work and when to let well enough alone.
Another poor policy which some towns
and villages have adopted is to lay costly
pavements in the immediate centre of the
town and leave the outskirts and roads
leading to and from the place in its primi-
tive condition entirely neglected. Such